



## **IV. BOARD REPORTS**

### **Finance Committee**

Executive Director B J Wood updated the board on the outcome of the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) and HB2.

In response to the National alert by NAD and HLAA of several states "misusing" the Telephone Relay Fund, Ms. Wood will be presenting this announcement to both the Chief of Staff and Secretary of Tax and Revenue on June 21<sup>st</sup>. At the same time, she will discuss the shortage of revenue and how it might impact our operation. The full details of this meeting and the possible solutions will be presented at the next board meeting in August.

## **V. AGENCY REPORTS**

### **CDHH Update**

Executive Director Wood displayed the new Website to the board and audience. At the top of the home page are different topics that can be clicked on for more information such as the issue of insurance coverage of children's hearing aids which is a project Suzanne Ruble is working on. Under the heading of "Our Commission" is information on the Board, meetings and agendas, and minutes from past meetings. Under "Services" are the three departments that work with the public, Communication Access and Development (CAD), Telecommunication and Technical Assistance (TTA), and Public Policy and Advocacy (PPA). Furthermore, to keep the community informed through social networking we have links to Facebook and Twitter. CDHH is having some issues with YouTube due to restrictions from the State's Department of Information Technology (DoIT), but the Commission is working to resolve those issues.

The entire staff of CDHH will be contributing to the Website by composing fact sheets on issues involving Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind such as "How to Get an Interpreter." CDHH can empower individuals in the community because they can print the information they need, and take it to a hospital or business and show them the Fact Sheet.

In other exciting news, Ms. Wood announced that COPD is sponsoring four interpreting workshops during the month of June due to the fact that COPD had savings in their funds. Among the workshops are a workshop on Deaf-Blind Interpreting and Legal Interpreting. These workshops will help interpreters develop and improve their skills.

Two of the CDHH Staff have been voluntarily working on a Native American project. They found out they had \$10,000, but due to short notice agreed to meet every Thursday to arrange an all-day event for SSP's, Deaf-Blind individuals, and interpreters to learn about Native American Culture. At the same time Native Americans need to learn more about SSP's, especially among the diabetic population who are losing their vision.

Shannon Smith is working with the State's E911 Department and the County's Public Safety Access Points (PSAPs) to provide training on effective communication with Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind individuals during 911 calls. In addition Shannon and E911 are working together to prep the State of New Mexico on SMS/Text to 911, which is a requirement of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Telecommunications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010.

In FY12, CDHH will get \$300K from the General Fund thanks to Senator Nancy Rodriguez and the turn-out of Deaf-Blind individuals during the legislative session. Most of the funds will be contracted out.

CDHH's contract with Hamilton Relay will continue as well as the company that provides the telecommunication equipment, Teltex. CDHH also has contracts in place with COPD and We Interpret for interpreter development. Also the Commission will continue the mini-grant program.

Our budget for FY12 has been reduced by \$41,000. These are personnel and operational funds. Currently the staff at CDHH consists of 13 people but we have the funding for 15. One position is still being advertised and CDHH will contract out for the position in the Las Cruces Office.

#### **Deaf Culture Center Update**

Ms. Wood stated that the Deaf Culture Center (DCC) has \$100,000 but is managed by the Office of Property Control, and that the Commission is responsible to develop an RFP along with Lisa McNiven (President of DCC). Ms. Wood will call on interested members of the community to be on the review committee. Commissioner Ronald Stern asked if that meant that we would have to ask for capital outlay for construction. Ms. Wood replied that they originally hoped the City of Albuquerque would take over, but they did not.

During the early search, Ms. Wood called an architect who is deaf, John Dickinson, who came to help the community brainstorm. Mr. Dickinson asked the community to think of phases and include low income and senior citizen housing because there is funding for that, and to think of the Cultural Center as part of that housing development. So there will be phases; Phase One is the DCC, Phase Two would be the low income housing and Phase Three would be the senior citizen housing. Commissioner Stern advised that we be careful because the \$100,000 is for the DCC and not for housing or other areas. Ms. Wood agreed and added that Senator Rodriguez made an amendment, and she would like to keep the senator involved.

#### **Administration & Finance**

Discussion on Administration and Finance was opened by Chair Apodaca. He asked Ms. Wood to clarify the change of CPA firms for the Board. Ms. Wood explained that the owner of the previous CPA firm had passed away in December and CDHH had to go through the RFP process to find another CPA to audit our budget. CDHH picked the top three and gave the information to the Auditing Office, and they select the firm that they feel we should work with. The new firm was selected and they are now auditing the commission office. The report for 2010 should be finished by June 30<sup>th</sup>; and the report for 2011 by December.

#### **Communication Access & Development**

A question was asked regarding rule changes on page 21 of the Board Report. The rule changes have to do with the Signed Language Interpreting Practice Board (SLIPB) taking a second look at the rules as they were designed. Ms. Wood clarified that the SLIPB is responsible for the complaints that come in, and they have received three or four complains. They review them and give them to the commission to decide what action to take. SLIPB are trying to improve the standards for interpreters and oversee that they are certified and licensed.

Commissioner Buchholz noted on page 21 it was noted that COPD was offering the interpreter workshops that Executive Director Wood had alluded to previously. Ms. Buchholz noted that Brian Montoya from COPD was in the audience and asked if he would be willing to expand on the workshops. Mr. Montoya said the first one would be for Deaf-Blind Interpreting. Ms. Wood interjected that Richelle Hammett (Franz), who used to be the Deaf-Blind Specialist at CDHH, would be giving the training. The second one would be on Mental Health Interpreting with Arlyn Anderson who is nationally recognized for her development of mental health interpreting. The third workshop is for CDI's and the final one is a legal workshop with Carla Mathers who is a consultant regarding legal interpreting issues. Commissioner Buchholz also mentioned that she received the email but there weren't specifics. Mr. Montoya stated that the first flyer was a "Save the Date" flyer and they were still working on location. They were looking for a hotel close to the airport with a free shuttle to keep costs down. Since these are important workshops for the interpreters, COPD wanted to make them affordable workshops for CEU's.

Mr. Montoya also talked briefly about presenting to Santa Fe Community College interpreting students. He presented to very young students and wanted to emphasize that they should be in this business because that is where their heart is, not because of the money.

### **Moment of Silence**

Commissioner Buchholz asked that we give special recognition or a moment of silence for Gary Sanderson, a well renowned interpreter. He has died two days previously after a long illness and this was a real loss to the community. He had come to New Mexico many times to train interpreters here and thought about retiring here in New Mexico as well, but it wasn't meant to be. Executive Director Wood also added that Larry Forestal, a past president of the National Association for the Deaf, also had recently passed away. Chair Apodaca called for a moment of silence to honor Mr. Sanderson and Dr. Forestal.

### **Public Policy & Advocacy**

Commissioner Buchholz asked for clarification on the last sentence of page 34 regarding remaining licenses. Ms. Wood asked if Stefan Esterley could step out of his role as interpreter to explain the information on that report from We Interpret. Mr. Esterley clarified that he and Paul Keough had switched roles at We Interpret there were still remaining about 170 VRI licenses. Mr. Keough will now be responsible for distributing the remaining licenses, so regarding the language in the report, when it said remaining licenses, it is referring to the VRI software licenses. The licenses were through a company called Nextalk who developed some of the software. The licenses were paid for by We Interpret and then they distribute them at no cost to those who need them. Mr. Esterley also stated that once the Nextalk licenses are placed, the VRI calls would come to New Mexico interpreters first. After three or four rings the call would go out to a nationwide agency, but We Interpret would receive funding here in New Mexico even if the calls do go outside of New Mexico Interpreters.

Commissioner Buchholz asked if Deaf Consumers could use them. Mr. Esterley stated that the point of this particular package is to distribute them to businesses where deaf people go, such as a dentist office or a hospital. Commissioner Buchholz asked what the exact roles were that were switched. Mr. Esterley stated that he was in charge of Outreach & Education and Mr. Keough came on board as a Staff Interpreter. Mr. Keough was still working on some of his certification and once he completes that he will be able to do more community work. But for now they would switch roles since Mr. Esterley has all the necessary paperwork to work in the community.

### **Telecommunication and Technical Assistance**

Chair Apodaca said he noticed that some of the reports were missing numbers for the third quarter and asked if we could possibly e-mail the board with the numbers so the board members would be able to compare the second quarter numbers with the third quarter numbers on page 41 of the Relay New Mexico report.

It was mentioned that the Relay Service (CapTel Relay) experienced outages during the severe weather in Wisconsin in February. This was a concern to CDHH because that Relay Service only has offices in Madison and Milwaukee. CDHH used Facebook and Twitter to spread the word about the outages. Chair Apodaca mentioned that the use of social networks such as Facebook and Twitter is a good way to keep in touch with the younger generation.

Ms. Wood explained some history with the CapTel equipment. At one time we were distributing that phone for free through our distribution program. Then later CapTel was selling it to customers for \$99, but would charge the Commission \$350 for each device. Several states protested and decided to wait for new captioning phones from Hamilton and possibly Sorenson. Now Ultratec is offering the CapTel for \$79. Commissioner Buchholz agreed that CDHH should make them bring that price down.

### **Las Cruces Office**

Commissioner Buchholz stated that on page 48, under "Community Collaboration", New Mexico Association for the Deaf (NMAD) is not listed, but it was her understanding that the Las Cruces office worked with NMAD. Ms. Wood stated that Sandra Williams from the Las Cruces office is a member of NMAD and helping with the conference planning as an individual. CDHH is very interested in sponsoring the conference, registering for a table, etc.

### **Deaf-Blind Services**

Commissioner Buchholz had a question regarding the Deaf-Blind Community. She prefaced her question by clarifying that she didn't want to be misunderstood because she had worked with the Deaf-Blind Community in Seattle and has several close friends who are Deaf-Blind. She noticed that there is an emphasis on providing Deaf-Blind services, but wondered what the numbers were for Deaf-Blind individuals in New Mexico. Executive Director Wood stated that the number of Deaf-Blind persons that the Service Coordinators were working with was 13, but we haven't been given the numbers by the Governor's Commission on Disabilities which COPD contracted with.

Ms. Wood had visited Seattle to study how other states serve Deaf-Blind. She believes the concern here is the lack of collaboration among between Vocational Rehabilitation, the Commission for the Blind, and the SSP program. She wants to develop a good collaboration plan especially with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Communications and Accessibility Act monies coming for technology for Deaf-Blind individuals. Ms. Wood feels that there needs to be stronger foundation building to be considered for the long term.

Ms. Wood added that, although she is still researching this, she heard there are over 100 Deaf-Blind individuals across the state. Commissioner LeJeune added that she heard a figure of 350 across the state of New Mexico. Ms. Wood added that 85% of the D-B population in Seattle moved from other states because they have services. There is a similar situation in Minnesota. These states receive federal funding and they have a strong collaboration. Commissioner LeJeune said she could attest to that from her experiences in Louisiana. Many Deaf-Blind people from Cajun Country would go to Seattle for employment. Commissioner Buchholz added that Seattle also has an outstanding transportation system.

Ms. Wood also mentioned how impressed she was that during the legislative session; approximately 15 Deaf-Blind people showed up at the Round House to fight for services.

## **VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*There were no public comments.*

## **VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Commissioner Buchholz brought up the motion made at the last meeting regarding approaching the legislature to increase the telecommunication surcharge from .33% to .50%. Executive Director Wood stated she had approached the legislation with that matter and they did not agree but advised CDHH to work with Tax and Revenue again to resolve the collection problem. After three visits with the previous secretary, there was no progress. In June Ms. Wood would be meeting again with the chief of staff from the Governor's Office as well as the new Secretary of Tax and Revenue regarding this situation. The tax revenues should be charged on both landline and wireless phones, but the revenues are dropping. CDHH needs at least a minimum of \$5 million to maintain services

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

*There was no new business.*

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**11-10**

Commissioner Buchholz made a motion to go into Executive Session.  
Commissioner Romine seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Chair Apodaca:	yes	Commissioner LeJeune:	yes
Secretary Romine:	yes	Commissioner Buchholz:	yes
Commissioner Stern:	yes	Commissioner Silva:	yes

Board went into closed Executive Session at 11:52 a.m. and reconvened at 12:14 p.m. No action was taken during the Executive Session.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

**11-11**

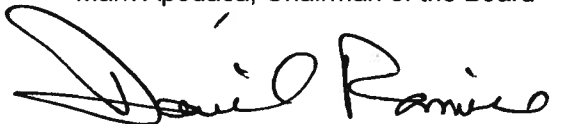
Commissioner Buchholz made a motion to adjourn.  
Commissioner Silva seconded.  
Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:16 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Lori G. Neubauer, Administrative Assistant

  
Mark Apodaca, Chairman of the Board

  
David Romine, Secretary